



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### ABAC Named Best Value School

ABAC has been designated a Best Value School by University Research & Review (UR&R). ABAC is the only college in the state to receive this distinction.

"We have always said you can get more for less at ABAC and are excited to be recognized for our affordable contributions to higher education," said ABAC President David Bridges. "ABAC is an affordable destination for students. The growth we have seen since 2008 when we began offering bachelor's degree is phenomenal."

Tuition and fees for full time in-state student at ABAC are \$3,992 per year and \$12,048 for out-of-state per year. This is \$26,000 less than research universities, \$12,000 less than regional universities and \$10,000 less than state universities based on University System of Georgia tuition rates for full-time enrollment over four years.

The Best Value School designation is determined by a rigorous qualification process, which generally takes three to four months.

"We scour available data, including actual comments by a college's students, to find schools to present to our nominating committee for consideration as a best value school," said UR&R Vice



Kurt M. Sagovac, Vice President of University Research & Review, presents the Best Value School Trophy to ABAC President David Bridges. ABAC is the only college in the state to receive this distinction.

President Kurt Sagovac. "The nominating committee does its own review. Schools that pass that hurdle are then examined one by one at a staff meeting and if the majority votes in

favor of the institution, the final steps in the process commence. The first of these steps determines what is special or unique about each school. If nothing can be identified as special or unique the school is eliminated. Schools that pass that hurdle must then select an executive to be interviewed by our founder, Joseph Schmoke."

Schmoke interviewed Bridges during the selection process and felt ABAC truly deserved the distinction.

"I must feel that a school's senior executive is passionate and committed to his or her students and to their other stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and the community," stated Schmoke. "ABAC's passion and commitment is evident, therefore I recommended the

school to our selection committee. The committee's final vote was unanimous."

UR&R was created after discussions by eight senior higher education experts who bemoaned the outrageous amount of student debt and rapidly rising costs to attend college. With input from the former president of J.D. Power and Associates, Steve Goodall, Schmoke's group decided to honor reasonably priced, under-recognized colleges with a J.D. Power-type award. For more information on the company visit [www.bestvaluecolleges.org](http://www.bestvaluecolleges.org)

"We hope that the exposure ABAC receives from the Best Value School distinction will alert a larger group of cost and quality conscious potential students to the schools' attributes," Schmoke commented.

A total of 17 college received this distinction, other colleges receiving the award include Amridge University, Aspen University, Brescia University, Carl Sandburg College, Chatfield College, College of the Ozarks, Eastern Arizona College, Fielding Graduate University, Park University, Philander Smith College, Seminole State College of Florida, The Baptist College of Florida, Tougaloo College, Trocaire College, Western Governors University, and York College of Pennsylvania.

Fall semester classes begin August 13. For more information about ABAC or enrolling for the fall visit [www.abac.edu](http://www.abac.edu) or call 229.391.5001.

### Fee Payment Deadline August 1 for Fall Semester

The deadline for fee payment is Aug. 1 by 3 p.m. Students can pay for fall term classes in three different ways. The preferred process for payment is via eStallion through MyABAC.edu. Payment of fees can be made on eStallion with a credit card or electronic check. Students also have the option of paying for fall term classes in person at the cashier's office located on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center. The cashier's office is open Monday – Thursday from 8:45 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Friday from 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Students who wish to pay by phone can call (229) 391-4999.

## Town and Gown Event on Aug. 21

The 7th Annual Town and Gown Connection will take place on Aug. 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Gressette Gymnasium at ABAC. The event will feature businesses and churches that will welcome new and returning students to Tifton.

Churches can take part in this event for \$10, businesses can participate for \$25, and all non-profit organizations can participate free of charge. Businesses are invited to bring samples, freebies, coupons, or even job applications. One table and two chairs will be provided for each church or business. A drawing for door prizes will take place at the end of the event.

For more information or to register for the Town and Gown event, businesses and churches can contact Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, at [bhughes@abac.edu](mailto:bhughes@abac.edu).

## New Parking Decals and Gold Cards Now Available

All ABAC faculty, staff and students are required to get a new ABAC gold card and parking decal prior to the start of classes on Aug. 13.

**Parking Decals**—You may go to <http://www.abac.edu/police> then click on "Parking Decal signup form". Click the link at the bottom to start the application. Once you finish and print the application bring it to the police department in Evans Hall with a picture ID to receive your assigned decal.

**Employee Gold Cards**—You may be required to have a new picture taken. You will need to provide either your old Gold Card or a picture ID to receive your new Gold Card. New employees will be required to have the "New Employee Gold Card Registration" form completed from Human Resources and a picture ID in order to receive their new Gold Card.

Please be aware that students will start coming in to the office to apply for their parking decals on Aug 4. It would be in your best interest to have picked up your Gold Card and parking decal prior to this date to avoid a long wait time. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the police department at 229-391-5060.

## Save The Date More Info to Come

*Orientation*

Aug. 8

*Freshman Move-in*

Aug. 9

*Welcome Week*

Aug. 10-14

*Convocation*

Aug. 14—3:30 p.m.



The ABAC Stallion provides an interesting center piece to the blooming crepe myrtles on the campus on a hot July afternoon.

## ABAC Birthdays

22 Deborah Broome  
22 Shawn Seat  
23 Jeff Newberry  
25 Pam Leonard  
27 Alan Murphy  
29 Joseph Brown  
30 Susan Farmer  
30 Melanie Partlow

31 Darby Sewell

*August*

1 Marie Davis  
1 Terence Turner  
3 Bobbie Robinson  
3 Donna Sledge

The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at [amock@abac.edu](mailto:amock@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.